

ANNOUNCEMENT FV-204

**PURCHASE OF CANNED DRIED BEANS  
FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ELIGIBLE OUTLETS**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

This amendment is being issued to (1) include the **electronic submission of offers** through the **Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES)** via the Internet, (2) change the bid closing time from Washington, D.C. (Eastern) time to **CENTRAL TIME**, (3) remove the option of specifying maximum units by shipping point on offers, and (4) remove the requirement of providing the gross weight on offers. Offers may still be submitted by mail, facsimile (FAX) or hand delivery. Please note, all bids submitted electronically or otherwise must be submitted by the CENTRAL TIME and the date specified in the Invitation.

Section II.A. Where and When to Submit Offers is hereby amended to include the following information which provides for the electronic submission of offers through DEBES.

Browser requirements for DEBES for electronic bidding are described in Attachment 1. To submit bids electronically through DEBES; an offeror must request a login ID in order to access the web site. See Attachment 3 to request a logon ID. If offeror is concerned about electronic bid receipt, offeror may also FAX bid.

- (a) For bids submitted electronically, access the DEBES production web site at:

<http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes>

This translates into a connection of  
<https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>

Once connected to DEBES, follow the online procedures. Click on the "Help" button" for detailed instructions on using the system or call 202-270-4517 for assistance.

See Attachment 2 for sample of bid submitted through DEBES.

- (b) AMS will not be responsible for any failure attributed to the transmission of the bid data prior to being accepted and stored on our web server including, but not limited, to the following:
1. Any failure of the offeror's computer hardware or software.
  2. Availability of your Internet service provider.
  3. Delay in transmission due to the speed of your modem.
  4. Delay in transmission due to excessive volume of Internet traffic.

*In the event of problems submitting bids electronically, offers should be FAXED prior to bid closing.*

Section II.A. Where and When to Submit Offers is hereby further amended to change the first sentence of the last paragraph to read as follows:

Offers, modifications, or withdrawals of offers under this Announcement must be received into either the DEBES lockbox or be received by the USDA mailroom, the Contracting Officer of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, or the USDA-AMS-NTS Communications Center not later than the **Central Time** and the date specified in the Invitation.

Section II.B. What to Submit is hereby amended to include the following information for bids submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry system (DEBES).

Offers submitted through DEBES must include the following:

1. Answers to all certification questions.
2. Bid prices for as many item numbers as desired.
3. Constraints according to the following amended Item 4 of Section II.B. of Announcement. At least one constraint must be entered before a bid can be submitted via the DEBES system.

In the DEBES system, a vendor's plant and shipping point information will display from a database for selection to enter bid data. Therefore, vendor must notify USDA of plant and shipping point additions or changes in sufficient time for USDA to update the database. Attachment 4 may be used to request vendor address additions or changes.

Section II.B. What to Submit is hereby further amended to change Item 4 for all methods of bid submissions to read as follows:

4. (a) The maximum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type (if applicable) offeror is willing to sell for each delivery period, or combination of delivery periods. The maximum number of units may be different for each delivery period, if desired.
- (b) The maximum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type (if applicable), or combination of commodity types, offeror is willing to sell for the entire Invitation.
- (c) The minimum number of units (whole purchase units) of each commodity type offeror is willing to sell for the entire Invitation. The minimum permitted for each commodity type shall not exceed 3 purchase units unless specified differently in the Invitation.

Notes:

If the maximum number of units offered for the delivery period(s) and/or the entire Invitation is not quoted, AMS may award up to the maximum demand for each item offered.

Vendors may specify a maximum number of units offered for each commodity type (if applicable) and plant, or combination of plants, if more than one plant will be used.

Maximum quantity offered may be greater than the demand shown on the Invitation.

Section II.B. What to Submit is further amended to replace Item 8 (gross weight per carton) with a new Item 8 requiring certification as to the accuracy of the SF-129. This change is applicable to all methods of bid submissions. Item 8 is changed to read as follows:

8. Offeror (DOES) (DOES NOT) certify that the SF-129 on file with the contracting officer is accurate and part of this offer.

Exhibit C - Sample Format for Submitting Offers is hereby amended as follows:

Item 4 - 'Shipping Point 1' is changed to 'Plant 1' and 'Shipping Point 2' is changed to 'Plant 2' to reflect maximum units specified by plant instead of by shipping point.

Item 8 - is changed to 'Does' to reflect the replacing of the gross weight under Item 8 with SF-129 certification.

This amendment is effective with Invitations issued after October 1, 2000.

All other terms and conditions of Announcement FV-204 remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Proden  
Contracting Officer  
Commodity Procurement Branch  
Fruit and Vegetable Program

